IEDC scheme in Gujarat

1203. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposals made by Government of Gujarat under Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC) scheme are pending with his Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the proposals submitted by Gujarat Government under IEDC scheme would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The second instalment of grant due to the Government of Gujarat under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) for the year 2005-06 could not be released as the State Government of Gujarat is having unspent balances under other Centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In respect of the proposal for 2006-07, the State Government has been requested to confirm whether the special teachers possess the required qualification and whether utilisation certificates in respect of grant released to all the DIETs and NGOs during the previous years have been received.

Facilities under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1204. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme, a minimum teacher-student ratio norm, provisions of class rooms, drinking water, separate toilets for girl students etc. have been stipulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any exercise has been carried out to ascertain the level and quality of adherence of these norms by authorities in various States and Union Territories; and

(d) if so, salient findings thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and

(b) Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, the guidelines stipulate that funds provided for civil works must not exceed 33% of the entire project cost of a district and based on the infrastructure requirement of a district include *inter alia* a room for every teacher or for every grade/ class, whichever is lower, at primary and upper primary, with the provision that there would be two classrooms with verandah to every primary school with at least two teachers and a room for head-master in a upper primary school/section; drinking water supply and toilet facilities in every school and one teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary schools.

(c) and (d) Progress in closing infrastructure gaps are tracked through the annual data provided through the District Information System for Education (DISE) every year on elementary education.

Literacy of Muslims

†1205. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the literacy rate of Muslims in the country is very low;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to achieve the national average rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to 2001 Census, the literacy rate of Muslims was 59.13% against the national average of 64.84%. The male and female literacy rate of Muslims was 67.56% and 50.09% as compared to the national average of 75.26% and 53.67% respectively.

(c) The national Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to impart functional literacy to the non-literates in 15-35 age-groups. The goal of the NLM is to attain a sustainable threshold level of 75% by 2007. Though no specific programme is being implemented for Muslims, the focus of all the programmes of NLM is on disadvantage sections of the society including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Minorities, etc. 150 districts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rates have been identified for launching Special Literacy Drive. Most of the States, which have literacy rate of Muslims below the national average, have been covered under various

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.